



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS

AUGUST 2014

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## VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES



Chris Herrick, Chief

## Multi-Gas Meters *Calibration & Relative Response*

As I travel around Vermont and meet with different fire departments I have noticed that an increasing number of them have acquired **Multi-Gas** meters. This is due in part to the increased awareness of Carbon Monoxide (CO) as well as greater funding for the first responders.

There are two critical issues associated with these meters that have caused some confusion and are important to insure the safe use of the instruments. These are **calibration** and **relative response**.

Let's look at calibration first. Calibration is when the sensors, usually Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide, Flammability (LEL) and CO are adjusted by applying a known quantity of each and adjusting the sensors. This should not be confused with 'bump testing' which is simply applying a known quantity of gas to check if the sensors are reading correctly. If the bump test shows they are not then the instrument need not be re-calibrated.

Calibration should be done according to the manufacturer's recommendation but a good practice is to bump test the instrument before each use. This is to insure that the readings taken are accurate at the incident.

The issue of relative response is just as important as proper calibration. Relative response is a factor only for LEL. Instruments are calibrated to a flammable gas, pentane for instance in some. Pentane reacts differently than methane as it is burned in the instrument. The result being that a reading of 20% of the LEL in a methane environment is not accurate. The 20% needs to be multiplied by the specific conversion factor for methane. In the case of the meters used by the HAZMAT Team and calibrated using pentane is a factor of 0.5. So, in reality the 20% LEL reading for methane is really 10%.

It is important to note that some flammables will have a conversion factor that will make the actual reading higher then what is indicated on the meter. Again, with our meters and cal gas the conversion factor for gasoline is 1.3. This means a reading of 8% is in reality 10.4%.

Each meter has a recommended cal gas for flammables and the owner's manual should have the relative response conversion chart for many of the common flammables. You should familiarize yourself with this and all those using the meter should adjust their action levels accordingly.

Please call me if you have any questions about this or any HAZMAT related issue, and be SAFE.

Christopher Herrick, Chief  
VHMRT

## BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the board meeting.

(For all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)

### Meetings:

August:  
Electrical: 8/5/2014  
Elevator: 8/12/2014  
Access: 8/25/2014

September:

## Frequently asked questions for Platform Lift Installations



Question #1: In an existing building where no renovations or alterations are planned, is a variance necessary for a platform lift or LU/LA installation?

Answer: No

Question #2: What is the minimum size platform lift required for a new installation? Answer: 36"X60"

Question #3: When an existing platform lift, smaller than 36"X60" needs replacement can it be replaced with the same sized lift? Answer: Yes, provided no alterations are occurring in the affected area.

Question #4: Can a platform lift be installed to a stage or elevated platform without a variance? Example: a school renovation: Answer: Yes, when maximum elevation is less than 6' (72").

Question #5: Must all platform lift installations meet the Elevator Safety Rules. Answer: Yes, note that private chair lifts for an individual apartment tenant or condo owner and not intended for public use are exempt from the rules.

### Existing Apartment Smoke Alarm Deadline



The 2012 NFPA Life Safety Code required smoke alarms to be placed in existing apartment sleeping rooms by battery. Rather than having a mix of AC/DC detection within a building, the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code was amended to require that by 11/1/2015 that existing sleeping rooms be provided with electrically wired smoke alarms. The sleeping room alarms are not required to be interconnected to the common area alarms as in new construction.

section 101:31.3.4.5.4 **Smoke Alarms Existing Apartment Buildings:** Smoke alarms required by 31.3.4.5.3 shall be installed in all sleeping rooms by **11/1/2015** at which time all smoke alarms must be electrically wired.



# Back-to-School Safety Checklist

## Transportation Safety

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school.

### *Walking to school*

- ☐ Review your family's walking safety rules.
  - Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
  - Before you cross the street, stop and look all ways to see if cars are coming.
  - Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- ☐ Practice walking to school with your child.

### *Riding a bicycle to school*

- ☐ Make sure your child always wears his helmet when leaving the house.
- ☐ Teach your children the rules of the road they need to know to ride their bicycles.
  - Ride on the right side of the road and in a single file.
  - Come to a complete stop before crossing the street.

### *Riding the bus to school*

- ☐ Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- ☐ Make sure your children stand six feet away from the curb.
- ☐ If your child and you need to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the side of the road until you are at least 12 feet ahead of the bus. You always should be able to see the bus driver, and the bus driver always should be able to see you.

## School Safety

Many school-related injuries are completely preventable. Follow these steps to ensure your child's safety at school.

### *Preventing backpack-related injuries*

- ☐ Choose a backpack for your child carefully. It should have ergonomically designed features to enhance safety and comfort.
- ☐ Don't overstuff a backpack; it should weigh no more than 10 to 20 percent of your child's body weight.
  - For example, a child that weighs 60 pounds should carry a backpack no heavier than 12 pounds.
- ☐ Ask your children to use both straps when wearing their backpack to evenly distribute the weight.

### *Preventing playground-related injuries*

- ☐ Encourage your child only to use playgrounds with a soft surface. Avoid playgrounds with concrete, grass and dirt surfaces, as they are too hard.
- ☐ Children under the age of four should not use climbing equipment and watch older children when they're climbing.
- ☐ Do not let your children use monkey bars. They are unsafe and should not be used by children of any age.



**Safety**  
at HOME

### National Safety Council

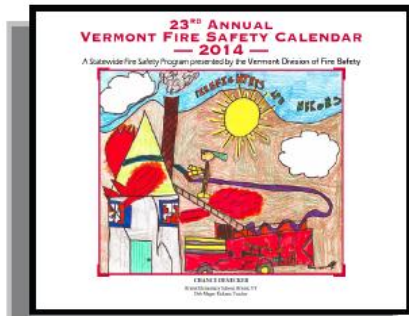
saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads, through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

1121 SPRING LAKE DRIVE  
ITASCA, IL 60143  
(800) 621-7619 • [nsc.org](http://nsc.org)  
[customerservice@nsc.org](mailto:customerservice@nsc.org)

~ August is Back to School Safety Month! ~



# Request for Support of the 24th Annual Fire Safety Poster/2015 Calendar Project



This year will be the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual State Fire Safety Poster/Calendar Project. Every year for over 20 years, the printing of the calendar has been made possible with the support of **DEDICATED SPONSORS LIKE YOU!** Again, this year we are asking for your donation to help support this statewide project.

The fire safety calendar program goes hand and hand with the many fire safety programs organized by local fire departments around Fire Prevention Week. Once more, our objective is to provide calendars to students statewide.

***Your contribution is vital in helping us reach the goal to keep our children and all Vermonters safe from fire.***

***Please send your donations to support the 2015 calendar to***

***L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc.***

***14-20 Jefferson Street,  
Barre, VT 05641***

All money collected will be used for the printing costs of the calendar.  
Distribution of the Calendars is paid for by Vermont Division of Fire Safety.

***We ask that all contributions be submitted by November 14th.***

And please make your checks payable to L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc. and include Fire Safety Calendar on the memo line of the check.

In Vermont schools, children learn important fire safety messages such as: Stop, Drop and Roll, Stay Low in a Fire, Electrical Safety, Scald Prevention; also the importance of Smoke Detectors, Sprinkler Systems, Fire Drills and Home Exit Plans. During the month of October, all 3rd grade students are asked to portray the fire prevention messages they have learned in a drawing. After judging by a team of judges thirteen students' drawings are chosen to illustrate a fire safety message for each month as well as the cover in

Through the distribution of this calendar, the children share the messages at home with their families helping to further prevent the tragedy of fire.

Thank you again for your contribution to this worthwhile cause. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Division of Fire Safety or call 802-476-3164 or 1-800-486-1947.

***Help Us Keep This Life Saving Program Alive For Our Kids!***

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## Administrative Penalties Paid

### ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY PAYMENTS RECEIVED

FROM July 1, 2014- July 31, 2014

August, 2014

SITE NAME	CITY	PAYMENT AMOUNT	VIOLATOR NAME
ALLENSON APARTMENTS	SPRINGFIELD	\$100.00	RICHARD STOCKER
HASKINS GAS SERVICE	SPRINGFIELD	\$500.00	PETER HASKINS
FIRE STATION	PITTSFORD	\$100.00	STEPHEN CORZILIUS

Doors installed with self-closers in buildings required to be accessible need to be adjusted to allow easy access to rooms and spaces (ADA 404.2.9). The allowable opening force is 5 pounds accept for fire doors, which must be higher but no more than 15 pounds of force to release the door and 30 pounds to begin the swing of door. This is one area of the codes that is not specific and is left up to the AHJ to balance the needs of fire code requirements and ADA access.

## Opening Force of Doors



NFPA 80 doesn't address the pull/push issue, but does suggest that interior doors be provided with number 3 size closer and exterior doors provided with number 4. Door closers range in size from number 2 to number 6. Most door closers are adjustable like the one in the photo below. Upon completion of a construction project doors must be checked to ensure they are operable with reasonable effort.





Vermont Department of Public Safety

## DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

### Public Education & Information Section



Micheal D. Greenia Section Chief Public Education and Information Section 1311 US Route 302 Barre VT 802.479.7587 [micheal.greenia@state.vt.us](mailto:micheal.greenia@state.vt.us)



#### 2014 Fire Prevention Week theme announced at NFPA Conference & Expo

During the first day of NFPA Conference & Expo that was held in June, NFPA announced the theme of the 2014 Fire Prevention Week. To make the announcement, Chairman of the Board Phil Stittlerburg joined NFPA's very lovable mascot, Sparky the Fire Dog.

"Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" Is the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2014, October 5-11.

Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire, but they need to be working. Unfortunately, many home fire deaths result from fires where a smoke alarm is present but does not operate. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme focuses on motivating people to test their smoke alarms each month to make sure they're working properly.

Please visit our FPW website, [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org) for information, statistics, tools and other FPW related assets that will be useful for your campaigns this year.



#### Vermont Participates in Remembering When Conference. Plans underway to implement programs in communities across Vermont.



A team from Vermont joined thirty other teams of fire service members and allied health professionals from around the country to participate in a training conference on fire and fall prevention sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Members of the Vermont team were Lexi Cuomo -DFS / St Michael's fire, Mary West- Champlain Valley Agency on Aging (CVAA) and Micheal Greenia - DFS /NFPA Public Education Network Member. This team will train and act as facilitators to expand the program to the fire service and those serving older adults statewide. We feel this team structure is the best use of our in-state resources and builds upon our past public educational efforts.

The Remembering When program was developed by NFPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help older adults live safely at home for as long as possible. Together, NFPA and CDC created 16 key safety messages – eight fire prevention and eight fall prevention – to help educate and protect the most vulnerable of older adults.

Each year, NFPA awards scholarships to establish partnerships between fire departments and home visit agencies for the implementation of Remembering When at the local level. During this conference, participants discussed effective ways to perform group presentations for older adults to teach them about fire and fall risk reduction strategies, along with tips on how to include Remembering When components into home visits. The home visits allow the program to be personalized for each client's unique safety needs in the home.

NFPA recently refreshed the program with updated statistics and other material. The Remembering When program and materials are available from NFPA at no cost and can be downloaded from the Remembering When page on NFPA's website.

>>> **SPECIAL NOTE:** A New England Region Remembering When Conference is currently being planned to be held in November. If you are interested in attending to get the training or if you would like assistance to implement Remembering When at the local level, contact Micheal Greenia.





State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

## CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

### August 2014

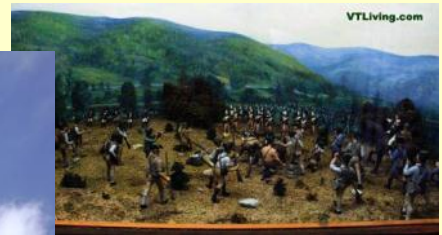
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24-31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Date	Event	Location
9	Smokey Bear's Birthday- 1944	ALL
15	Bennington Battle Day	ALL

~ EVENTS ~  
BENNINGTON BATTLE DAY- AUGUST 15TH, 2014- STATE HOLIDAY

### BOARD MEETING DATES

Electrical Board Meeting: August 5, 2014, 10AM  
Elevator Board Meeting: August 12, 2014, 9am  
Access Board Meeting: August 25, 2014, 1:30PM



### September 2014

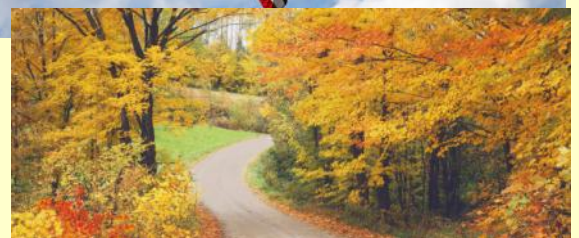
SUN	MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Date	Event	Location
1	Labor Day	ALL
14-20	National Farm Safety & Health Week	ALL
23	First Day of Autumn	ALL

~ EVENTS ~  
LABOR DAY- SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2014- STATE HOLIDAY

### BOARD MEETING DATES

Plumbing Board Meeting: September 9, 2014, 10AM  
Access Board Meeting: September 29, 2014, 1:30PM





State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety

AUGUST

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact Kelsey at  
Kelsey.Remick@state.vt.us*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Waterbury—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371